

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Nuclear Fallout



Iran Deal a 'New Chapter' or 'Historic Mistake'?

A staff member removes the Iranian flag from the stage after a group picture with representatives of United States, Iran, China, Russia, Britain, Germany, France and the EU during the Iran nuclear talks at the Vienna International Center in Vienna, Austria Tuesday July 14, 2015. (Carlos Barria, Pool Photo via AP)

Page 3



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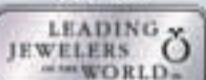
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Iran nuclear deal a fine 'new chapter' or 'historic mistake'?

JULIE PACE
MATTHEW LEE
GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Overcoming decades of hostility, Iran, the United States, and five other world powers struck a historic accord Tuesday to check Tehran's nuclear efforts short of building a bomb. The agreement could give Iran access to billions in frozen assets and oil revenue, stave off more U.S. military action in the Middle East and reshape the tumultuous region.

The deal sets in motion a years-long test of Iran's willingness to keep its promises to the world — and the ability of international inspectors to monitor compliance. It also sets the White House up for a contentious fight with a wary Congress and more rocky relations with Israel, whose leaders furiously opposed the agreement.

Appealing to skeptics, President Barack Obama declared that the accord "offers an opportunity to move in a new direction. We should seize it."

Under terms of the deal, the culmination of 20 months of arduous diplomacy, Iran must dismantle much of its nuclear program in order to secure relief from biting sanctions that have battered its economy. International inspectors can now press for visits to Iran's military facilities, though access is not guaranteed. Centrifuges will keep spinning, though in lesser quantities, and uranium can still be enriched, though at lower levels.

In a key compromise, Iran agreed to continuation of the U.N.'s arms embargo on the country for up to five more years and ballistic missile restrictions for up to eight years. Washington had sought to keep the arms ban in place, while Russia and China joined Iran in pushing for an immediate suspension.

On the streets of Tehran, Iranians honked their horns and celebrated in the city's main square. Presi-

dent Hassan Rouhani said a "new chapter" had begun in his nation's relations with the world, even as he denied Iran had ever pursued a nuclear weapon. While the U.S. partnered in the talks with Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, the decades of tensions between the U.S. and Iran put the two countries at the forefront of the negotiations.

Whether the nuclear rapprochement will spark a broader thaw is unclear. Nearly 40 years after Iran's Islamic revolution and the hostage-taking at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, the country's hardliners remain hostile toward Washington. The U.S. and its allies also have deep concerns about Iran's support for terrorism in the Middle East and its detention of several American citizens.

With key restrictions on Iran's nuclear program required for only a decade, opponents of the deal say it simply delays Tehran's pursuit of the bomb. Critics also say Iran will use new wealth from sanctions relief to double-down other destabilizing activities in the region. Iran stands to receive more than \$100 billion in assets that have been frozen overseas and benefit from an end to various financial restrictions on Iranian banks. Iran could also sell more oil, bringing down crude prices.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who lobbied unceasingly against a deal, called it a "stunning historic mistake" and warned that his country would not be bound by it. Netanyahu strongly hinted that Israeli military action to destroy Tehran's nuclear program remains an option.

Obama and Netanyahu, who have long had a cool relationship, spoke by phone Tuesday. White House officials said Obama also called King Salman of Saudi Arabia, one of the many Sunni Arab rivals of Shiite Iran who have expressed concerns about the deal.



President Barack Obama, standing with Vice President Joe Biden, delivers remarks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, after an Iran deal is reached. Obama says every path to a nuclear weapon will be cut off from Iran under a historic agreement announced in Vienna.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, Pool)

On Capitol Hill, Republicans accused Obama of making too many concessions. House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said lawmakers "will fight a bad deal that is wrong for our national security and wrong for our country." GOP presiden-

tial nominee. She praised the deal as an important step toward "putting the lid on Iran's nuclear program." Clinton's support could give some Democratic lawmakers more confidence in standing with Obama as he tries to hold off congressional efforts to disrupt the deal. Congress has 60 days to review it and can try to prevent Obama from waiving sanctions on Iran as promised in the negotiations. The president reiterated that he would veto any legislation aimed at upending the agreement. Defending it, he said, "No deal means a greater chance of more war in the Middle East."

The deal comes after years IAEA chief Yukiya Amano said Tuesday his agency and Iran had signed a "roadmap" to resolve outstanding concerns, hopefully by mid-December. □



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Obama calls for shorter sentences for nonviolent convicts

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Thursday laid out an expansive vision for fixing the U.S. criminal justice system by focusing on communities, courtrooms and cellblocks. He announced a federal review of the use of solitary confinement and urged Congress to pass a sentencing reform bill by year's end.

In a speech to the annual convention of the NAACP civil rights group, Obama also called for voting rights to be restored to felons who have served their sentences, and said employers should stop the practice of asking job candidates about their past convictions. He said long mandatory minimum sentences now in place should be reduced — or discarded entirely.

"In far too many cases, the punishment simply doesn't fit the crime," Obama told a crowd of 3,300 in Philadelphia. Low-level drug dealers, for example, owe a debt to society, but not a life sentence or a 20-year prison term, he said. With his speech to the prominent African-American advocacy group, Obama sought to put a spotlight on the need for new legislation as he



Frances Brisbane of the Long Island borough of New York applauds as she listens to President Barack Obama speak at the NAACP's 106th national convention at the Philadelphia Convention Center, on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Philadelphia. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

mounted a weeklong push on criminal justice reform. A day earlier, Obama commuted the sentences of 46 nonviolent drug offenders — the most commutations a president has issued on a single day in at least four decades.

Upon arriving Tuesday in Philadelphia, Obama met with a number of former prisoners to discuss their experience re-entering society, the White House said. And on Thursday, Obama planned to put a personal face on the nation's mushrooming prison population with a visit to El Reno Federal Correctional Institution outside of Oklahoma City — the first visit to a federal prison by a sitting U.S. president.

The assertive moves reflected a president eager to wield his executive power during his waning

years in office to reduce harsh sentences, cut costs and correct disparities he said have disproportionately burdened minorities. Earlier in his presidency, as he spent his political capital carefully on major domestic priorities, Obama spoke cautiously and only intermittently about the need for smarter sentencing and other justice changes.

But as of late, public attention has been piqued by a series of upsetting incidents across the country. In places like Baltimore, New York and Ferguson, Missouri, tensions between law enforcement and their communities have spilled out into the open, underscoring longstanding concerns among minority communities that they're treated differently in the criminal justice system. □

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Police:**Birthday cake beating followed week of handcuffing**

In this combination photo, Oriana Garcia, left, Jacob Barajas, center, and Robert Leroy "Roy" Wilson, right, are seen in undated photos provided by the Hagerstown, Md., Department of Police. (Hagerstown Department of Police via AP)

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

HAGERSTOWN, Maryland

(AP) — A 9-year-old boy who was fatally beaten over a missing birthday cake had been handcuffed for up to three hours a day for a week before the deadly assault, according to court records released Tuesday in Maryland.

A doctor who examined Jack Garcia before the boy died concluded his head injuries and extensive bruising came from numerous beatings and were consistent with torture, police said.

The boy's mother, Oriana Iris Garcia, 26, approved of her boyfriend and brother handcuffing her son because "she was trying to teach Jack not to steal," Hagerstown Police Detective Shane Blankenship wrote in charging documents. The boyfriend, Robert Leroy "Roy" Wilson, 30, also disciplined Jack by slapping him in the head, boxing with him in padded gloves and hitting him in the leg with a bamboo sword, Garcia's brother Jacob Andrew Barajas told police.

Barajas, 23, said all three adults also made Jack eat food he had stolen "until he was sick of it," and "used exercise to help Jack focus better," the court records say.

They all lived in the apartment where Jack was assaulted June 30. He died July 5. The documents detail second-degree murder and first-degree child-

abuse charges against Garcia and Barajas. They were arrested Monday by police who say they had been preparing to leave town. Bail for each is set at \$5 million. Neither has a defense attorney listed in court records.

They told investigators that Wilson inflicted the fatal injuries after Barajas had handcuffed Jack because he was suspected of stealing a cake belonging to Wilson's 2-year-old daughter. Wilson is being held on assault and child-abuse charges that were leveled before the boy died. His bail is set at \$1 million. Wilson's public defender, Joshua Street, didn't immediately return a phone call Tuesday from The Associated Press. Jack's uncle told police that after the boy went unconscious from the beating, he placed him in a seated position on the floor and handcuffed him behind his back to a dining-room chair, using a bicycle lock as an additional restraint. Then, after Wilson went to get Garcia from her job at a store, Barajas called the emergency dispatcher to say Jack was having trouble breathing.

When the paramedics arrived, Garcia sent them away, saying the boy was only "congested" and didn't need medical attention — even though he was still unconscious, police say. The boy's mother told police she later became alarmed when the boy started gurgling with every breath, so Wilson called

the emergency dispatcher again at 10:37 p.m., more than five hours after the first emergency call. Paramedics wanted him airlifted to Children's Na-

tional Medical Center in Washington but foul weather delayed the flight. He was taken to a local hospital and transferred to the Washington hospital sometime after midnight. The allegation that Garcia was complicit in Jack's beating didn't ring true to her former boyfriend, Daniel Fletcher.

"She was a loving mother," Fletcher said in an interview outside the apartment.

Fletcher, 35, a market researcher now living in Orem, Utah, said he lived with Garcia and Jack for five years in Arizona and in Goleta, California, before she met Wilson online and moved in late February to Davis' apartment in Hagerstown. □

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Attorney: Misconduct claims pose problem for Hastert defense

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Allegations of past sexual misconduct by former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert present a quandary for the defense in the high-profile hush-money case, an attorney told a federal judge

Tuesday. During a status hearing in Chicago, defense attorney Thomas C. Green blamed "government leaks" for speculation that swirled around the 73-year-old Republican since he was indicted in late May. "The indictment has effectively been amended

by leaks from the government," Green said. "(It) is now an 800-pound gorilla in this case." The indictment says Hastert agreed to pay \$3.5 million to someone identified only as "Individual A" to hide past misconduct; the document offers no detail and does not say

the misconduct was sexual in nature. But the Associated Press and other media outlets, citing anonymous sources, have reported the payments were intended to conceal claims of sexual misconduct decades ago. The indictment also suggests someone may have

been extorting Hastert, but it doesn't elaborate. Hastert, who is free on bond, was not required to attend the hearing and wasn't present. He lives west of Chicago near Yorkville, where he coached high school wrestling and taught until 1981. □

Family: Settlement isn't victory in police chokehold case

COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The relatives of an unarmed black man who died after being put in a white police officer's chokehold said Tuesday that the nearly \$6 million settlement they reached with the city wasn't a victory as they continued pressing for federal civil rights charges.

"The victory will come when we get justice," Eric Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, said a day after the \$5.9 million settlement was announced.

"Justice," added one of Garner's children, Emerald Snipes, "is when somebody is held accountable for what they do."

The settlement came nearly a year after the 43-year-old Garner died, having repeatedly pleaded "I can't breathe!" as Officer Daniel Pantaleo took him to the ground with an arm

around his neck. Garner lost consciousness and was pronounced dead later at a hospital.

Garner had refused to be handcuffed after being stopped on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes on a Staten Island street.

The encounter, caught on an onlooker's video, spurred widespread protests. Coupled with police killings of unarmed black men elsewhere in recent months, Garner's death became a flashpoint in a national debate about relations between police and minority communities.

"I can't breathe" spurred the national movement, and it won't end "until we change how policing goes," the Rev. Al Sharpton, a prominent civil rights activist, said at a news conference Tuesday with Garner's relatives.

The city medical examiner



Eric Garner's daughter Emerald Snipes, left, is joined by her brother Eric Garner, center, and mother Esaw Snipes, as she speaks during a news conference, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in New York. The family of Garner, a black man who died after being placed in a white police officer's chokehold, discussed the \$5.9 million settlement it reached with the city days before the anniversary of his death. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

found the police chokehold contributed to Garner's death. But Pantaleo's lawyer said the officer had used a permissible take-down maneuver known as a seatbelt — not a chokehold, which is banned under New York Police Department policy.

A grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo. The U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn are investigating whether there's evidence to warrant charges that the officer deliberately violated Garner's civil rights. Such cases are rare after

grand jury inaction or acquittal at state level.

New York Police Commissioner William Bratton declined to comment Tuesday on the Garner case.

The settlement came before any lawsuit was filed, though the family had filed notice of its intention to sue. City Comptroller Scott Stringer has made a point of settling some civil rights cases before lawsuits begin, saying resolving them quickly saves the city money on legal fees. The city did not admit any liability. Mayor Bill de Blasio said he hopes Garner's family "can find some peace and finality" from the settlement.

Longtime civil rights attorney Jonathan Moore, the family's lawyer, said there also was a settlement with the Richmond University Medical Center whose employees treated Garner. That settlement is confidential. □

NAACP wants Confederate symbols taken off Georgia property

KATHLEEN FOODY
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The president of the Atlanta NAACP says the civil rights group wants Confederate symbols — including a giant carving at Stone Mountain Park — removed from all government-owned property and plans to pursue making those changes

during the next legislative session.

Some who support flying the Confederate battle flag say the symbol represents Southern heritage and pride in Civil War-era leaders. However, Atlanta NAACP President Richard Rose and others have argued the flag is a divisive symbol and white su-

premacy is at the heart of the heritage the flag celebrates.

The Confederate battle flag has come under renewed scrutiny in the weeks since nine black churchgoers were fatally shot during Bible study in Charleston, South Carolina.

Dylann Storm Roof, a

white man who was photographed with the flag several times, is charged in the shooting deaths and authorities are investigating the killings as a hate crime.

Stone Mountain — roughly 15 miles (24 kilometers) east of downtown Atlanta — features a large carving of Jefferson Davis, who

was president of the Confederacy of secessionist, pro-slavery southern states in the 1861-1865 American Civil War, and Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. The white supremacist Ku Klux Klan also once held notorious cross-burnings and organizational meetings there. □



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US Financial Front:

American retail sales dip as consumers stay cautious



A customer checks out at a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market store in Bentonville, Ark. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for June on Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

(AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans cut back their spending at stores and restaurants last month, a sign that they remain cautious despite robust job growth in the past year.

Retail sales fell 0.3 percent in June, the Commerce Department said Tuesday, the weakest showing since February's harsh winter weather kept shoppers indoors. That followed a robust 1 percent jump in May, though that was revised down from a previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Economists had expected that consumers would rein in their spending after May's large gain. But the reversal was much sharper than projected.

"It certainly is a case of 'two steps forward, one step back' for the U.S. economy," Dan Greenhaus, an economist at BTIG, said in a note to clients.

The figures suggest that Americans are still reluctant to spend freely, possibly restrained by memories of the Great Recession.

"Household caution still appears to be holding back a more rapid pace of spending growth," Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan

Chase, said in a note to clients.

Still, consumers spent more in the April-June quarter than in the first three months of the year, the data shows. That, in turn, should boost growth in the second quarter to about a 2.5 percent to 3 percent annual rate, up from the first quarter, when the economy shrank 0.2 percent.

And there are signs that consumers are more confident, suggesting that sales could rebound in the coming months.

"One soft month is not a trend," Ian Shepherson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said. "We expect spending to strengthen in the second half."

The Conference Board's consumer confidence index jumped in June to its second-highest level since the recession ended in June 2009. It is now 17.4 percent higher than a year ago.

And Americans are borrowing more: Consumer credit, which includes auto, student and credit card loans and excludes mortgages, rose a healthy 6.5 percent in May from a year earlier.

Even so, June's weak spending was broad-based. Excluding autos, gas, building materials and restaurants, so-called core retail sales — which factor into the government's official measure of economic growth — fell 0.1 percent in June, after an increase of 0.7 percent in May. Spending at restaurants and bars, an area of strength in recent months,

slipped 0.2 percent. Sales of building materials fell 1.3 percent. Online and catalog retailers reported a 0.4 percent drop in sales.

Sales at auto dealers fell 1.1 percent, but that drop came after a big gain in the previous month. Auto purchases reached the highest level in a decade in May, so even with the decline, sales remain at a healthy level.

Economists watch the retail sales report closely because it provides the first indication each month of the willingness of Americans to spend. Consumer spending drives 70 percent of the economy. Yet retail sales account for only about one-third of spending, with services such as haircuts and Internet access making up the other two-thirds. □

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Iranians welcome nuclear deal, hope for brighter economy

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Drivers honked their horns and dozens of Iranians cheered in a main square and boulevard of the capital Tehran on Tuesday, welcoming their country's landmark nuclear deal with world powers, which they hope will mean an end to isolation and sanctions that have crippled the economy.

The burst of celebrations underscored the hopes that many Iranians have pinned on the drawn-out talks. That public yearning for economic relief was crucial for winning moderate President Hassan Rouhani the breathing room to negotiate with Iran's nemesis the United States over imposing limits on the nuclear program.

"I'm very happy," gushed Azizieh Habibi, a 46-year-old housewife with two college-age children, who was among those celebrating on Tehran's Vali-e Asr Avenue. Some waved flags, some had painted their faces in the flag's red, white and green colors, chanting thanks to Rouhani and his top negotiator, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"My children will have better future since there is no threat of sanctions and restrictions anymore," said Habibi. "They may even go to the U.S. for more education."

A key question now will be whether powerful hard-liners, including the elite Revolutionary Guard, who have spoken staunchly against concessions on Iran's nuclear ambitions, will acquiesce to the accord. They were largely silent Tuesday

after the deal's announcement, most likely waiting to see the stance of the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds the final word on all state matters in Iran. Khamenei met with Rouhani Tuesday night and expressed his "appreciation and thanks for the honest

deal was reached earlier this year, paving the way for the new agreement. At one Tehran electronics shop, men who had gathered around TV screens at the store clapped as Rouhani addressed the nation after Obama's appearance. Among them was shopkeeper Ali Hosseini, 29,

lets close to them, like the Javan newspaper, have been critical of the negotiations. In its Tuesday edition Javan noted possible positive results of the talks like end of sanction against Iran but added, "even the most optimistic experts have expressed hopelessness about realizing such



A group of jubilant Iranians cheer and spray artificial snow during street celebrations following a landmark nuclear deal, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

and diligent efforts" by the negotiating team, according to state TV.

The brief statement was in line with how Khamenei has played his cards close to his chest throughout the negotiations, allowing them continue while rarely weighing in directly beyond sometimes expressing skepticism. Many were glued to television coverage of the deal's announcement, including President Barack Obama's address — only the second time Iranian state TV has aired him live. The first was his speech when an interim

who watched both leaders' speeches live.

"I am proud that my country has resolved this critical issue through talks not war," he said.

Many in the Iranian public were well aware of the potential for hardliners to try to undermine the accord.

"Will the revolutionary Guard support the deal?" Hashem Mohammad, 65, asked nervously after watching Rouhani's speech.

The Guard has made no prominent remarks in recent weeks, but media out-

scenario."

The hard-line Rajanews website criticized the deal, saying Iran gave away too much. "Iran has accepted comprehensive limitations (on its nuclear program) in return for suspension of some sanctions."

In his address, the moderate Rouhani sought to sell the deal to the public, underlining that Iran's main goals were all achieved, particularly "continuing its nuclear activities, lifting sanctions," while acknowledging that concessions had to be made.

"Negotiation means give and take. We were not seeking charity, expecting someone to give us something free. We were after negotiations, a fair give and take," he said, vowing that the deal would bring "new hope and a better future for our youth."

Iranians have been suffering for years from the pain of sanctions, which have battered the economy, fueling unemployment. Rouhani's talk of a dialogue with the world — and the lure of an end to sanctions — was key to his victory in 2013 presidential elections. In exchange for agreeing to limits on its nuclear program and new provisions for inspections of Iranian facilities, Iran stands to receive a broad lifting of international sanctions and more than \$100 billion in assets frozen overseas.

Even before the deal was formally announced, the value of Iran's riyal rose against the dollar, a sign of optimism over an improved economy.

Pouya Alizadeh, a shop owner in northern Tehran, handed out free sweets to his customers to celebrate the agreement. He hailed Zarif as a hero for his role in sealing the deal.

"What's important for me is that it will bring improvement in business and trade with the outside world," he said.

Some also saw the nuclear deal as a victory for Iran against the U.S. and other world powers.

"Iran defeated the world! We are the champions," cheered Ghasem Kashani, 19, a freshman in Tehran Azad University. "The West learned Iran is right in its position!" □



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Greece: Revolt over austerity deal reaches Cabinet



Demonstrators gather near the Greek Parliament during a rally against the government's agreement with its creditors in Athens, in central Athens, Tuesday, July 14, 2015. The eurozone's top official says it's not easy to find a way to get Greece a short-term cash infusion that will help it meet upcoming debt repayments.

(AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

D. GATOPoulos

E. BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's left-wing government launched a frantic 24-hour effort late Tuesday to push more austerity measures through parliament and meet demands from European creditors as it faced down mounting anger at home.

The belt-tightening measures, which include pension cuts and higher sales tax rates on everything from condoms to race horses, were agreed upon with eurozone leaders to prevent the Greek economy from collapsing, and as part of planned third bailout worth 85 billion euros (\$93 billion).

The new measures mean recession-hit Greeks will have to pay more for most goods and services by the end of the week.

Hard-liners in Prime Minister Tsipras' own Syriza party were in open revolt, and unions and trade associations representing civil servants, municipal workers, pharmacy owners and others called or extended strikes to coincide with Wednesday's parliament vote.

Energy Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis said lead eurozone lender Germany and its allies had acted like "financial assassins" by forcing the deal on Athens, and urged Tsipras to reject it.

"The deal is unacceptable," Lafazanis said in a statement.

"It may pass through parliament ... but the people will never accept it and will be united in their fight against it."

In an interview on state TV, Tsipras said he would not step down, despite the open dissent within his own Cabinet and party. "I will not run away from my responsibilities," he said.

He also criticized the deal, but said it was the best Greece could get.

"The policies imposed on us were irrational," Tsipras said. "We faced a tough and punitive position from our partners ... But the (agreement) does offer a way out of the crisis."

Pro-European opposition parties have pledged support for the bailout bills, but Tsipras could effectively lose his majority in parliament, weakening his ability to push through measures that he had himself vehe-

mently opposed until a few weeks ago.

Tsipras' coalition partner, Defense Minister Panos Kammenos, also bitterly denounced the new deal.

"There was a coup."

A coup in the heart of Europe," said Kammenos, who heads the right-wing Independent Greeks party. "They want the government to fall and replace it with one not elected by the Greek people."

The government holds 162 seats in Greece's 300-member Parliament, and more than 30 of Syriza's own lawmakers have publicly

voiced objections.

There was speculation Tsipras might choose to reshuffle his Cabinet, which would remove dissenters from key positions.

Athens was forced to accept harsh terms to remain in the euro after defaulting on its debts to the International Monetary Fund and closing banks to prevent a deposit run.

It faces a deadline next Monday to repay 4.2 billion euros (\$4.6 billion) to the European Central Bank. It is also in arrears on 2 billion euros to the International Monetary Fund.

It will take an estimated four weeks for Greece to access the new bailout loans, leaving EU finance ministers scrambling to find ways to get Athens some of the money sooner.

The monthslong standoff between Greece and its creditors has taken a heavy toll on an economy that started the year with a 2.9 percent growth forecast.

A national small business association said Tuesday that the new austerity measures were likely to cause the economy to shrink for a seventh year, with a 3.5 percent drop in output. □



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In Yemen, anti-rebel forces in south take over Aden airport

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen (AP) — Yemeni forces battling the Shiite rebels in the country's south said they took control on Tuesday of the airport in the strategic port city of Aden, driving the rebels there into a part of the city jutting out into the sea.

The advance is a major blow for the rebels, known as Houthis, basically trapping them on the small peninsula that is part of Aden. Residents elsewhere in this city on the Arabian Sea took to the streets later on Tuesday to celebrate the advances by the anti-rebel forces.

Tuesday's operation was assisted by "preparatory airstrikes" by the Saudi-led coalition that targeted the Houthi positions over the past few days, according to a statement by Ali al-Ahmadi, the spokesman for the Aden Resistance Leadership Council, which leads the city's anti-rebel forces.

Independent security officials confirmed the advancement but rebel offi-

cials refused to comment on the developments. Both the independent and the rebel officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Al-Ahmadi said logistical support from the coalition gave the anti-rebel forces the upper hand against the Houthis, weakened by months of airstrikes. The Saudi-led forces, "in addition their undeniable role in logistical support and their preparatory airstrikes which took place before today's operation," contributed to Tuesday's advance, al-Ahmadi added.

The Saudi-led coalition has been targeting the Iran-allied Houthis since March in a bid to stop their power grab across Yemen. It also carried out airstrikes in the capital, Sanaa, on Tuesday.

The strikes came despite a U.N.-brokered truce — now in its fourth day — between the rebels and the country's internationally-backed government in exile and its allies.



People stand next to a vehicle destroyed following airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition in Sanaa, Yemen, Tuesday, July 14, 2015. The coalition has been targeting the Iran-allied Houthis since March in a bid to stop their power grab across the country. Yemeni forces battling the Shiite rebels in the country's south said they took control on Tuesday of the airport in the strategic port city of Aden.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said Tuesday that at least 142 civilians have been killed in Yemen over the past 10 days, bringing the civilian death toll in more than three months of violence to 1,670. Rupert Colville, a spokesman for the U.N. human rights office, said in Geneva that along with the 142 civilians killed between July

3 and Monday, another 224 civilians were injured in Yemen. That included a total of 76 deaths and 38 injuries in a pair of airstrikes on markets on July 6. The latest numbers bring the total killed in Yemen since March 26 to 1,670, while 3,829 civilians have been injured, Colville said. Fuel shortages in Yemen, due to the siege by the

Saudi-led coalition that limits imports as well as the ongoing ground fighting, could lead to an even higher death toll, the international aid group Oxfam warned Tuesday. Water pumps will fail to work without fuel, leaving 80 percent of Yemen's population of 20 million without a source for clean water, the agency said. □

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China urges Philippines to change course on its South China Sea tribunal plan

BEIJING (AP) — China urged the Philippines on Tuesday to ditch its attempt to solve South China Sea territorial disputes with an international tribunal and instead negotiate with Beijing directly, following the arbitration panel's latest request for input from China.

The Philippines has asked the tribunal in The Hague to declare China's claims to virtually all the South China Sea invalid, saying Beijing's actions have trampled on other nations' rights.

China contends the tribunal doesn't have jurisdiction, and has refused to participate. The tribunal, which operates under the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Sea, held a weeklong hearing ending Monday to address Chi-

na's contention. It said that Beijing has until Aug. 17 to comment on the hearing, and that it should make a ruling on the issue this year. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying on Tuesday reiterated China's opposition to the arbitration, and said China "will never accept the unilateral attempts to turn to a third party to solve the disputes."

"China urges the Philippines to come back to the right track of resolving disputes through negotiation and consultation," she said in a statement.

The Philippines praised the tribunal's effort to prod China again to join the case, saying the five-man arbitration body has been fair and transparent in its handling of Manila's complaints against Beijing. "We have asked China to participate and we continue to extend the invitation for them to explain their side," Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said by phone in Manila. China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan have been contesting ownership of the resource-rich South China Sea. The United States and other countries have expressed concerns over China's island-building in the region that they say has been provocative and has damaged vast coral reefs in the disputed waters. Beijing says fears that it would eventually limit freedom of navigation and overflight to back its claims are unfounded. □

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Farm worker Felix Babe, right, loads his luggage on a motorcycle taxi at the Dominican-Haitian border in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, as he returns voluntarily to his native Haiti after living nine years in the DR. The end of a year-long application period has sparked an exodus to Haiti of people who failed to qualify and are now seeking either to wait out what they fear could be a wave of mass deportations or to start uncertain new lives on the poorer side of Hispaniola.

(AP Photo/Ezequiel Abiu Lopez)

**E. LOPEZ
D. COTO**

Associated Press

OUANAMINTHE, Haiti (AP)

Thousands of people from Haiti or merely of Haitian descent aren't waiting to see if they'll be forcibly removed from the Dominican Republic now that the deadline has passed to apply for legal residency.

The end of a yearlong application period has sparked an exodus to Haiti of people who failed to qualify. Some plan to wait out what they fear could be a wave of mass deportations, while others will start uncertain new lives on the poorer side of Hispaniola. The two countries that share the Caribbean island have a fraught history, with generations of Haitians crossing into the Dominican Republic to take low-wage jobs in fields like agriculture and construction. They've also encountered

discrimination and periodic crackdowns.

Among those who have left recently are Haitian farmworker Eragene Moncher, despite the fact he actually qualified for the "regularization" program for foreign-born people. He returned to the homeland he left more than 20 years ago after failing to get the documents necessary for five of his six children to establish Dominican residency, all of whom were born there.

"We're arriving with nothing," he said while boarding a truck in the border town of Ouanaminthe with two of his children and headed toward the capital of Port-au-Prince. "I'm trying to figure out how we're going to make a living." Dominican officials say migrants in the country could stay if they prove they arrived before October 2011 and have taken steps to

establish themselves by getting a job or going to school. Nearly 290,000 of the estimated 524,000 migrants in the country — the majority of them Haitians — applied by the June 17 deadline. The government says those who didn't apply or who didn't get legal permission to stay should leave or risk deportation.

The Dominican government says nearly 40,000 people had left as of July 6. Many people going to Haiti say they fear the violent, often traumatic expulsions that have occurred periodically in the past, and are frustrated with requirements for documents many cannot obtain.

The Dominican Republic has been under international scrutiny in recent years for immigration policies that tend to affect mostly Haitians and people of Haitian descent, who tend to be darker skinned

than most Dominicans and often find themselves victims of racial discrimination. In September 2013, the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Court ruled that children born in the country to non-citizens did not qualify for automatic citizenship because their migrant parents — most of whom were Haitians — were "in transit." Amid an international outcry, President Danilo Medina's administration announced it would grant citizenship to the estimated 55,000 people it said were born in the Dominican Republic to at least one parent who was a citizen or legal resident.

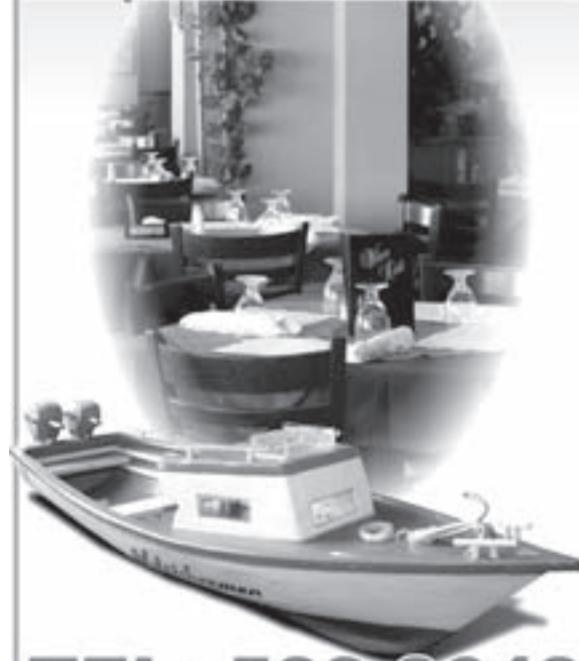
It also created a program

for people who were born in the country but never obtained a birth certificate or other identification. Before it closed in February, only about 9,000 people applied for the program that let them register as foreigners and become naturalized citizens. Rights activists fear that Dominican-born people without proper documentation are as vulnerable to deportation as foreigners.

"They're saying there are going to be deportations," construction worker Wasley Abraham said as he, his wife and daughter prepared to cross the Dominican border into his native Haiti. □

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Suriname lawmakers OK Bouterse's re-election as president

PIETER VAN MAELE

Associated Press

PARAMARIBO, Suriname

(AP) — Suriname's Parliament on Tuesday gave former military dictator Desi Bouterse a second term as the democratically elected president of the South American nation.

Tuesday's action came without even a formal vote: There was no opposition in the 51-member legislature. Bouterse, 69, led his Na-

tional Democratic Party to victory in late May's parliamentary elections, but fell short of the required 34-seat majority needed to immediately re-elect him as the country's leader for the next five years.

In recent weeks, Bouterse has been negotiating with smaller parties to get those votes in Parliament. In the end, the splintered opposition did not even bother with putting forth its own

candidate.

Main opposition leader Chandrikapersad Santokhi said he decided not to stand in the way of his rival's re-election since the country needs a new government in place "as soon as possible."

During his acceptance speech, Bouterse said Suriname faces "very difficult times." His next administration will cut expenses and govern with fewer public

workers, he said.

"We will have to put the days of carefree spending behind us," Bouterse said. Suriname's fragile economy has been increasingly struggling in recent years as prices of key exports, gold and bauxite, have slipped and debt has risen. Bouterse has loomed over Surinamese politics for decades. He first came to power in February 1980, when he led a military

coup and suspended the constitution just five years after Suriname gained independence from the Netherlands. He led another coup in 1990, three years after allowing the return to civilian rule.

He remained a powerful force even after stepping down as army chief in 1992. In 1999, he was convicted in absentia in the Netherlands on drug trafficking charges. □

Cuba: Mariel port, economic zone attract 1st foreign firms

A. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

MARIEL, Cuba (AP) — At Cuba's new mega-port project west of Havana, shipping containers are stacked five-deep the length of its 2,300-foot (700-meter) dock alongside four massive, Chinese-built offloading cranes.

Neon-vested workers are busy laying roads and building a convention center, and trucks filled with dirt rumble over rutted roads and coat the vegetation with dust.

Not far from the Mariel container terminal, workers have finished grading a flat area the size of a football field for the first private companies to establish operations in a special economic development zone billed as a key part of the country's effort to attract foreign investment and jumpstart a sluggish economy.

A year and a half after the port's launch, only seven

here. But with six of those approvals coming since

approved almost one company per month," Ana Te-



A worker stands near a crane at the container terminal at the port in the Bay of Mariel, Cuba, Monday, July 13, 2015. Not far from this port, workers have finished grading a flat area the size of a football field for the first private companies to establish operations in a special economic development zone billed as a key part of the country's effort to attract foreign investment and jumpstart a sluggish economy.

(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

companies — five foreign and two domestic — have the green light to operate

January, officials say things are getting off the ground. "We're in July and we have

Igarza, director of the Special Development Zone at Mariel, said in an inter-

view this week, when The Associated Press received access to the site. "The pace is what we expected from the beginning."

"The first ones are the trickiest," she added. "After they begin to invest, it's simpler for others to do so. But there's an exploratory phase."

Igarza declined to say which companies are coming to Mariel, except that the foreign firms include two from Mexico, two from Belgium and one from Spain. They cover sectors including food, chemicals and logistics, represent total investment of around \$50 million and are expected to launch operations in the first half of 2016.

With Mariel, Cuba is also looking ahead to when the U.S. embargo may be lifted as part of a rapprochement begun by presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro in December. □

Puerto Rico officials, advisers hold meeting with creditors

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— This week Puerto Rican officials and advisers held the first of what they say will be several meetings with creditors to explain why they believe it is necessary to restructure the U.S. territory's public debt amid a deepening economic crisis.

But specifics for bondholders were few. While saying "sacrifices" will be required by everyone involved, Government Development Bank President Melba Acosta said it was premature to propose details to

investors because a credible recovery and fiscal adjustment plan is still being drawn up.

Once that plan is completed "the contribution required from each of our investors will be made clear," Acosta said at the New York offices of Citigroup.

The live-streamed meeting with bondholders came about two weeks after Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said Puerto Rico's outstanding \$72 billion public debt is unpayable given the island's long recession. Garcia said he is seeking a

payment moratorium from bondholders and renegotiations on debt.

His administration also is pushing the U.S. Congress to allow Puerto Rico's government and its public agencies access to Chapter 9 bankruptcy if needed. Acosta told investors the Caribbean island is "committed to developing a comprehensive package of reforms" to reverse more than a decade of persistent economic stagnation. Because the economic recovery plan will take years to implement and span dif-

ferent administrations in the U.S. commonwealth, Garcia's government will propose establishing a financial control board with the "tools necessary to compel compliance," she said.

The meeting included a presentation by Anne Krueger, a former International Monetary Fund official who co-authored a recent report titled "Puerto Rico - A Way Forward" that the island's government is using as a kind of blueprint.

Among other things, Krueger recommends ex-

changing some of Puerto Rico's debt for bonds with longer maturities and slashing subsidies to the University of Puerto Rico for savings of up to \$500 million annually.

She said the Puerto Rican government's spiraling debt and fiscal situation is unsustainable and its cash balances are critically low. At the same, she noted, the island's labor force has been steadily falling as people move to the U.S. because the island has had "almost no economic growth for two decades. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



ARASHI - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass.

Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery.

The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf.

These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba. Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Graefield" beach you will be able to find your own piec-

es of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.



It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other

ances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash

into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story. The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar

beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles. If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures! Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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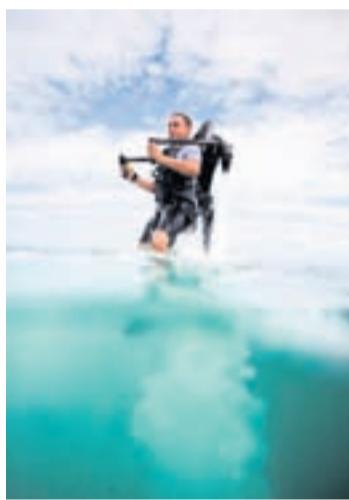
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ever experience and exclusively available at Red Sail Sports. JETLEV is a water propelled Jetpack. The system is powered by a custom-designed 225 horsepower engine creating 800 – 1000 gallons per minute of thrust, which can propel the pilot to heights of 30



feet. The throttle can also be controlled remotely by the flight-instructor which will guide the rider how to use the controls during their initial flight to ensure a safe and controlled experience. A flight assistant will accompany each JETLEV pilot to ensure a safe and uninterrupted flight experience.

After an introduction to the JETLEV equipment, you will receive a thorough briefing by one of our certified instructors. The instructor will explain how to safely operate the equipment and will be able to communicate with you during your flight. After the instruction, you will have approximately 30 minutes of in-pack flying time (most first-time pilots are flying within the



first 5 minutes). The flight is monitored by the instructor as well as an assistant who will assist while you are in the water. The complete JETLEV experience takes approximately 45 minutes. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and be a good swimmer to fly.

The activity is not suitable for pregnant women. Minimum height is 4'9" (145 cm), maximum 6'9" (205 cm).

More information on Red Sail Sports and JETLEV can be found at www.redsalaruba.com, or call 586-1603! □



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Great New Beach Tennis Court for the Kids at Imeldahof



NOORD - The kids at children's home Imeldahof are very, very happy: they got a wonderful beach tennis court on the property and they will be able to play to their hearts' content from now on. The court, which saw its first balls played last Friday morning, has come about with the help of some very nice sponsors and Beach Tennis Aruba (BTA).

But back to the beginning: Sjoerd de Vries of Beach Tennis Aruba was approached by Directie Sociale Zaken with the idea to build a beach tennis court

at the children's home in Noord. A wonderful initiative which was followed up by Juul Hamoen of Aqua Azul Apartments. He embraced the project and found sponsors for the necessary sand in Gusto Nightclub, Century 21, BTA and Imeldahof. Imeldahof took care of the court's plastic sideboards, making the new beach tennis court instantly upscale.

Beach Tennis Aruba will see to it that the thirty-something children of Imeldahof will be taught the right technique during free clinics, which will start this Au-

gust. Activities and free memberships of the Beach Tennis Club at La Cabana (Tropicana) are also offered.

The joint project of Imeldahof, BTA and the wonder-

ful sponsors can count on many hours of fun, not only from the kids, but also from the staffers, who vowed that they would take up the sport as well. What a super initiative!

Photo shows Juul Hamoen of Aqua Azul Apartments, Amalia Arrindell, Pedagogic coordinator, BTA's Sjoerd de Vries and director of Imeldahof, Natalia Arrindell. □



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Hollywood Smokehouse to be featured in two Brazilian news programs

EAGLE BEACH - It must be the love of meat! Since the Hollywood Smokehouse opened its doors a year ago at the Alhambra Casino & Shops location just off of Eagle Beach, the restaurant has been featured in several South American video and television productions.

This past weekend, a crew from NGT Net Television, one of Brazil's national television networks, filmed clips for two programs—"Barlada," a program watched on more than 50 television station affiliates throughout Brazil, as well as the zesty and popular "Spicing the Chat" program.

The programs will feature several of Hollywood's "Front Porch Cocktails," –

all hand crafted with fresh ingredients, as well as the smokehouse's low-and-slow barbecue, including



the meat lover's combination of beef brisket, pulled pork, and smoked sausage; the Korean lettuce wraps

with an Asian barbecue sauce, and the healthy quinoa and smoked pecan salad.

Brazil is a valuable and growing market for tourism in Aruba, and the team at Hollywood Smokehouse is

thrilled to be recognized and featured within the country's national media. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



United States' Jordan Spieth reacts after playing out of the rough on hole 15 during a practice round at the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

Associated Press

**Spieth no Tiger,
though that's
not a bad thing**

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland

(AP) — Jordan Spieth was practicing a shot he hopes he won't need this week, banging a few wedges off the wall on the famous Road Hole in the fading sun at this, the birthplace of golf.

Dead tired after winning yet again in Illinois before flying all night to get here for what could be a defining moment in golf, Spieth was still intent on having a bit of fun.

"Who wants this?" he yelled out, signing a ball and then tossing it left-handed toward the 50 or so fans still around Monday night.

It caused a bit of a frenzy, but just for a moment.

Continued on page 19

HOMETOWN HERO



Reds' Frazier wins HR Derby in Cincy

National League's Todd Frazier, of the Cincinnati Reds, holds the trophy after winning the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby, Monday, July 13, 2015, in Cincinnati.

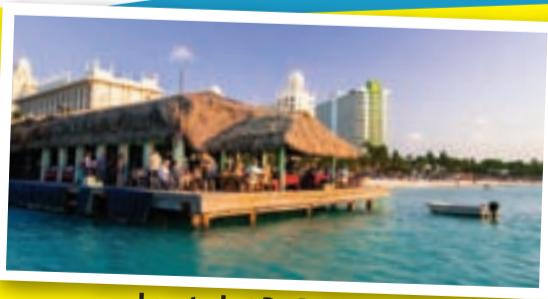
Associated Press

Page 20

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Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

"After two meals and one take out experience, I'm ready to COMMIT. This hip, casual place manages to pull off a great contribution to the latest fad...burgers."

Zforall, Sarasota, FL-USA
TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste—try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Venus Williams says Serena has “big opportunity”

JAKE LLOYD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Venus Williams spoke for everyone in women's tennis when a young girl asked her, "How is it playing against your sister?"

Williams responded: "Never easy, never easy."

Speaking at a news conference before playing for the Washington Kastles in World TeamTennis, the 35-year-old seven-time major champion and former No. 1 recognized the "big opportunity" her sister Serena has to complete the calendar Grand Slam at the U.S. Open in September.

"I think they're good," Venus said of Serena's chances, "but it's not just like she went out there and people gave her the matches (at Wimbledon) — she earned it. She earned every single match, every single point, so I'm sure that it won't be easy to win the Open."



Venus Williams speaks during a media availability before a team tennis match between the Washington Kastles and the Austin Aces, Tuesday, July 14, 2015 in Washington.

Associated Press

Serena, 33, is seeking to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1988 — and just the fourth ever — to win

all four majors in the same year. With her 21st major victory at Wimbledon on Saturday, she claimed her

second career "Serena Slam" of four majors in a row.

Venus touched on a hand-

ful of topics, including the controversy during the weekend involving a New York Times story about women's tennis players and body image.

"When it comes down to it, the only person that can understand what it's like to be a professional athlete is a professional athlete, how much you put into it — or maybe someone that's played sports at a high level who's really given their heart and soul," she said. "Otherwise it's hard to walk in someone's shoes."

Venus has no plans to slow down anytime soon. Answering a question about equal pay for female athletes, she said she would love to work on it "but I'm knee-deep in my own career, neck-deep really."

"I'm really looking forward to the U.S. Open Series and just playing even better and (to) continue rising." □

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Spieth

Continued from page 17

There weren't many fans around, and those who were seemed as if they were still trying to figure out this young Texan who has the golf world buzzing. They're not alone. Those in a sport that has been fixated for the better part of two decades on Tiger Woods are still trying to decipher Spieth themselves. What they do know is that he's 21, and in the midst of greatest the stretch of golf anyone has seen since Woods burst on the scene and transformed the sleepy game into must-see TV.

Forget the fact that part of the Woods mystique was that he was a rare player of color in a mostly lily-white game. Woods caused more of a stir by doing other things no one had ever seen before, thrilling fans with his booming drives and winning with clutch putts punctuated by his signature fist pump. Spieth is no Tiger Woods. Doesn't try to be, though they do share the same habit of talking angrily to themselves during a round. He doesn't overwhelm a crowd with his presence, doesn't intimidate other players while wearing a red shirt on Sunday. In a game dominated by Woods and the power hitters who followed, he's not even in the same neighborhood as the big boys with a driver in his hand.

What Spieth does do is win. This year he's done it on the biggest stages in golf, grabbing a green jacket at the Masters and following

it with a win a few weeks back at the U.S. Open. Add in a British Open and PGA Championship title, and he would be the first player to win the Grand Slam in a calendar year. He largely does it on his own terms, taking the title



Tiger Woods of the United States watches a shot off the 11th tee during a practice round at St Andrews Golf Club prior to the start of the British Open Golf Championship, in St. Andrews, Scotland, Monday, July 13, 2015.

Associated Press

at the John Deere Classic on Sunday when others suggested he might be better served by leaving early for Scotland to discover the many vagaries of the oldest course in golf. But Spieth has a confidence that borders on swagger and, much like Woods in his prime, a belief that his best is better than yours no matter where you tee it up.

"He beats you properly," former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy said. "He beats you with better golf. He doesn't beat you because he hits it further. Tiger's intimidation was that

he always did something amazing. Jordan — don't get me wrong, his body of work is amazing — but he doesn't beat you with a crazy par, or a crazy chip-in from the back of the 14th at Muirfield (Village). He just beats you because he's better."

Just how much better Spi-

eth really is, only time will tell. His career is in its infancy still, and it's way too early to crown him as the next great player, way too soon to begin talking about whether he — and not Woods — will be the one who finally takes down the record of 18 major titles held by Jack Nicklaus.

Besides, despite the struggles of Woods in recent times, there's a reasonable chance he's still got enough golf in him at age 39 to finally get past the 14th major he won at the U.S. Open way back in 2008.

"I'm still young," Woods said Tuesday. □



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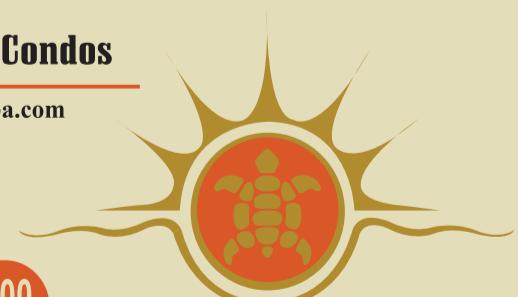


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Reds' Todd Frazier wins All-Star Derby in home park

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati third baseman Todd Frazier won the Home Run Derby on Monday, becoming only the second player to do so on his home field in the traditional lead-up event to the All-Star game. Frazier topped Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Joc Peda-
son 15-14 with another late surge and one last perfectly timed swing.

"No pressure here with these fans," he said, after accepting the crossed-bats trophy to one more standing ovation at Great Ameri-
can Ball Park.

Frazier joined the Chicago Cubs' Ryne Sandberg for home-field homer titles; the Hall of Fame second base-
man did it at Wrigley Field in 1990.

After finishing second last year in Minneapolis, this one was as sweet as that win-
ning swing.



National League's Todd Frazier, of the Cincinnati Reds, holds the trophy after winning the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby, Monday, July 13, 2015, in Cincinnati. ASSOCIATED PRESS

"That pushed me a lot," Frazier said. "I wanted to get back here. I'd been work-
ing in the offseason a little
bit. I'm just glad it was in
Cincinnati and they could
enjoy it with me."

Pederson was trying to be-
come the first rookie since
Wally Joyner in 1986 to
win or share the title. He
reached the final round by
knocking off Los Angeles
Angels slugger Albert Pujols,

who provided a blast after
making the All-Star team for
the first time in five years.
"I'm happy for Todd, espe-
cially being able to do it in
front of his fans," Pujols said.
"It's his night. He deserves

it. I just hope the fans were pleased and happy with the performance every single guy did. The right guy won, too."

Frazier topped Prince Fielder and Josh Donaldson to reach the finals, where he faced his biggest test. Pederson went first and matched the highest total of the night with 14 homers. Frazier needed a late surge to pull even, tying him with 11 seconds left in his round. He'd hit enough long hom-
ers to earn an extra 30 sec-
onds, giving him a chance to take a few deep breaths, regroup and refocus.

On the first pitch from brother Charlie in extra time, Frazier puffed his cheeks and exhaled as he hit one solidly, then mouthed the words "That's gone" as the ball headed for the left field stands. The ballpark was full of fans with arms raised even before the ball landed. □

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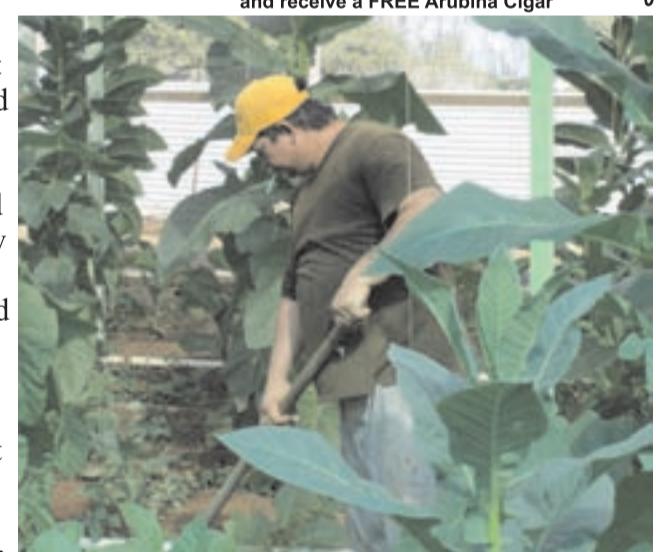


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled. Winner of the best of Aruba. The best local product.

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi



Froome wins 1st high-mountain stage at Tour de France



Britain's Christopher Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the tenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 167 kilometers (103.8 miles) with start in Tarbes and finish in La Pierre-Saint-Martin, France, Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

Associated Press

JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writer

LA PIERRE-SAINT-MARTIN, France (AP) — Chris Froome used the first high-mountain stage of this year's Tour de France to take control of the race, powering up a punishing climb in the Pyrenees on Tuesday at a pace none of his rivals could match. Froome and his Sky teammates killed off the hopes of one contender after another, including 2014 winner Vincenzo Nibali, the first of the big favorites to crack on the final ascent of Stage 10 to the ski station of La Pierre-Saint-Martin.

As Sky led the way, with three support riders strung out in front of Froome to tug him up the gradients, the lead group shrunk to less than a dozen of the hardest climbers.

Alberto Contador, the 2007 and 2009 winner, was the next former champion to wilt as Sky rider Richie Porte generated another burst of speed.

With six kilometers (four miles) to go, on some of the steepest sections, Froome tore away alone, out of the saddle as he accelerated. The last rider to stay with him, 2013 runner-up Nairo Quintana, couldn't respond and finished third behind Froome and Porte. "Froome has landed a

hammer blow on the Tour," said Nibali, the Astana team leader. "I have no more to give. I'm not even the younger brother of the Nibali from last year."

Froome, who was already wearing the race leader's yellow jersey after nine stages, is now nearly three minutes in front.

Closest is still Tejay van Garderen, an American on the BMC team. But he's 2 minutes, 52 seconds behind Froome overall.

Quintana lost more than a minute to Froome on the ascent and is now trailing the British rider by 3:09, in third.

Contador rode in nearly three minutes behind Froome and slipped back to sixth overall, 4:04 behind the leader. Nibali is 6:57 behind Froome in 10th place and looking nothing like the champion who won last year. He lost 4:25 on the climb and was the 21st rider across the line.

"Dream, dream scenario just to hear all those big names being dropped," Froome said. "I couldn't have asked for it to go any better."

Froome also won the first high-mountain stage in 2013 on his way to his first Tour victory. There are still two more climbing days in the Pyrenees, followed by ascents in the Alps.

"Froome rode away and showed his authority," Contador said. "I couldn't breathe. I couldn't get my legs to work. It really was a bad day."

Riding like this, it's hard to see anyone catching Froome on the last 11 stages to Paris unless he crashes, gets sick or has a disastrous off-day.

On the final 15-kilometer (9-mile) climb to the ski station, with steep gradients of between 9 percent and almost 11 percent, Sky showed itself to be the strongest climbing team at the race, which will help protect Froome on ascents to come.

Spectators who cycled up in the morning lined the road that snakes to an altitude of 1,610 meters (5,280 feet), in a moonscape of grey rocks and ski runs long devoid of snow. In cycling parlance, the climb is "Hors Categorie" — so tough that it defies categorization.

Porte's second place at the finish sharpened the blow for Quintana, denying the Colombian six bonus seconds he would have got had he ridden in behind Froome. Instead, Quintana had to settle for 4 bonus seconds awarded for third place, while Froome got 10 seconds shaved off his overall time for winning.

Sky's Geraint Thomas was sixth, making it the only team with three riders in the stage's top 10.

The 167 kilometers (104 miles) ridden in 4 hours 22:07 by Froome, from Tarbes in the Pyrenees' foothills, took the peloton through plunging valleys of great beauty with buzzards flying overhead. It also took riders past a reminder of the worst human ugliness: a concentration camp

used by the pro-Nazi Vichy government during World War II to lock up Jews who were later deported to death camps.

The arduous final climb and searing summer temperatures were a rude awakening for riders coming off their first rest day Monday, following the Tour's east-to-west swing over nine stages from the Netherlands through Belgium and across northern France. □

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3D VERSION
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FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

2D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:30 | 7:45
FRI 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00
SAT 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00
SUN & HOL 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45

THE GALLows
REESE MISHLER | PFEIFER BROWN

**MON-THURS 3:50 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40
FRI 3:50 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45
SAT 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40**

SELF/LESS
RYAN REYNOLDS | NATALIE MARTINEZ

**MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:25
FRI-5 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25**

MAGIC MIKE XXL
CHANNING TATUM | JOE MANGANIELLO

**MON-THURS 9:15
FRI 9:15 | 11:40
SAT 9:15 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 9:15**

ted2
MARK WAHLBERG | SETH MACFARLANE

**MON-THURS 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35
FRI 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05
SAT 1:50 | 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35**

JURASSIC WORLD
CHRIS PRATT | TY SIMPKINS

**MON-THURS 8:00
FRI 8:00 | 10:45
SAT 2:30 | 8:00 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 8:00**

INSIDE OUT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05
FRI 4:50 | 7:05
SAT 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:05
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:05

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By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Some of you who were lucky enough to know me as a child might remember me as a child who required a disproportionate amount of attention or correction. Called a "problem child" by some and kindly described by the smarter ones of you who realize that I just wanted to "do my own thing". There are a group of boys; we are in our late fifties now, growing up in Aruba who I fondly remember as the "bad boys". Really bad? Not really, we were expressing our own budding individualism in healthy ways.

Unfortunately, today when we describe a boy who "requires a disproportionate amount of attention or correction" we are probably talking about a boy suffering from developmental disorders such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or autism. This is bad. Worse, having to recognize that we are in an epidemic that conservatively affects 1 in 166 children; there are many more autistic boys than girls. In 68 families have a child that needs a disproportionate amount of attention.

Epidemic? Yes, the incidence of autism has increased from 1 in 10,000 in the 1970s to 1 in 150 today,

an increase of over 6,000%. Many more children are diagnosed with other neurodevelopmental disorders all considered to be on the same spectrum including Asperger's, ADHD/ADD, speech delay, autism and many other developmental and learning disabilities. This condition is so new that Traditional Chinese Medicine has no name for these conditions.

There are three distinctive behaviors that characterize these disorders. At the extreme end of the spectrum, autistic children have difficulties with social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors or narrow, obsessive interests. These behaviors can range in impact from mild to disabling.

The hallmark feature of autism is impaired social interaction. Parents are usually the first to notice symptoms of autism in their child. As early as infancy, a baby with autism may be unresponsive to people or focus intently on one item to the exclusion of others for long periods of time. A child with autism may appear to develop normally and then withdraw and become indifferent to social engagement. The normal development period has been noted to be up to when the child was immunized.

Childhood vaccinations, including flu shots, and even B-complex injections use Thimerosal as a preservative. Thimerosal is a mercury-containing organic compound. Since the 1930s, it has been widely used as a preservative in a

number of biological and drug products, including many vaccines. For many medical researchers there is a direct link between the exposure of mercury, a widely known neurotoxin, and the increasing incidences of autism.

Since mercury is the most toxic heavy metal, in our grass-roots clinic we started screening our child patients suffering from neurodevelopmental disorders for toxic heavy metals using hair. Over the years we have realized what numerous scientists have that autism, autistic spectrum disorders and ADD have similar characteristics to those of chronic metal toxicity. Knowing that toxic metals disable a growing body and brain by producing chronic irritation, I started looking for all the culprits of chronic inflammation in these children.

Many of my articles are about the foundation of all degenerative diseases and conditions – chronic inflammation. The triad responsible for generating chronic inflammation in your body is: toxic heavy metals, bowel toxicities, and the wrong food for your metabolic or blood type. There is now a great deal of information available that tells us that toxic metals and chemicals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, insecticides and pesticides are a causative factor in many cases of autism and ADD.

Inflammation in the brain is clearly a feature of autism, according to a study published November 2004, in Annals of Neurol-

ogy, the scientific journal of the American Neurological Association. The researchers found strong evidence that certain immune system components that promote inflammation are consistently activated in people with autism.

Both of my boys are over six feet healthy guys, who have grown strong without cow's milk. Milk today would be dangerous if it is not pasteurized. However, the pasteurization process turns milk casein into a very dangerous molecule that inflames and injures the brain.

We have witnessed children with neurodevelopmental disorder symptoms caused as a result of mal absorption and intolerances to certain foods, especially dairy products and gluten contained in wheat and grain products. Some of our patients' parents have reported remarkable changes after the elimination of these foods from the diets of their children.

Consistently, we find strong indications of chronic inflammation in children exhibiting development problems. To treat their symptoms we feed our children foods that are compatible with their metabolic type, which they can digest, foods that do not cause constipation, foods that will give them back the bacterial environment to temper these inflammatory conditions.

Treatment should begin with a healthy diet, high in quality protein foods such as eggs, lean meat, vegetables and balanced essential oils. Hair tests can

identify toxic heavy metals and blood tests can reveal the damage done by pesticides and insecticides.

Get The Point! Corresponding to the epidemic rise over the past decade treatments and therapies have been developed which greatly increase our ability to help children with developmental problems. Many of our children recover or improve dramatically given the proper therapies. Understanding the options provide parents the tools needed to benefit our children. Need some tools to help your child? - Viana Natural Healing Center, Tel: (297-585-1270), www.viananaturalhealing.com

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Certified Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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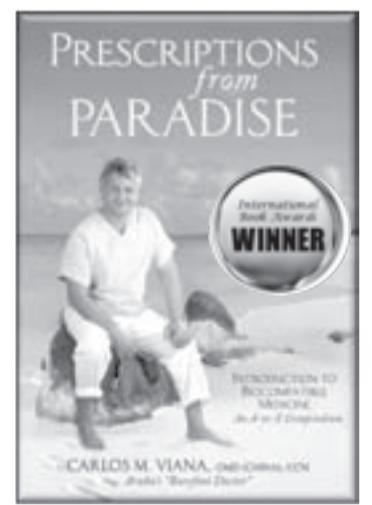
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South Korean spy agency explored technology to hack chat app

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

-- South Korea's beleaguered spy agency has acknowledged exploring the purchase of technologies to intercept communications on the popular Kakao Talk smartphone chatting service, but maintains it only intended to strengthen its monitoring of rival North Korean agents, not South Koreans, lawmakers said Tuesday.

The revelation is sensitive because the country's spy agency has a history of illegally tapping South Koreans' phone conversations. National Intelligence Service chief Lee Byoung Ho told legislators in a closed-door briefing that the agency bought hacking programs from an Italian company, Hacking Team, in 2012 that were designed to intercept information from cellphones and computers, according to details released to reporters by the office of lawmaker Shin Kyung-min, who attended the meeting.

Lee didn't indicate whether the agency obtained the technology for hacking Kakao, but he acknowledged that it asked Hacking Team about getting such technology, according to Shin's office.

The spy agency didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

Lee said the hacking programs bought from Hacking Team would be ineffective for spying on civilians because the NIS only received enough to monitor 20 different devices at once. He said the programs have been used mainly for research as the country looks to strengthen its cyberwarfare capabilities against North Korea,



South Korean National Intelligence Service chief Lee Byoung Ho attends a closed-door briefing at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

Associated Press

which Seoul blames for repeatedly attacking Internet networks and stealing information from computers, Shin's office said.

Lee also told lawmakers that the programs the NIS purchased from Hacking Team were used by 97 intelligence and investigation agencies in 35 countries around the world.

Kakao Talk is a free mobile chatting app that is used by 38 million people at least once a month in South Korea. Kane Lee, a spokesman for Daum Kakao Corp. which operates Kakao Talk, said the company's servers have never been breached. However, Lee said there are hacking tools that could infiltrate mobile devices without going through the servers.

The story emerged earlier this month when a searchable library of a massive email trove stolen from Hacking Team, released by WikiLeaks, showed

South Korean entities were among those dealing with the Italian surveillance firm.

Two previous NIS directors, who successively headed the spy service from 1999

and 2003, were convicted and received suspended prison terms for overseeing the monitoring of mobile phone conversations of about 1,800 of South Korea's political, corporate and media elite.

Earlier this year, another former NIS chief was sentenced to three years in prison after being found guilty of ordering an illicit online campaign to support then-ruling party candidate and current President Park Geun-hye ahead of the 2012 presidential election.

The spy service has previously countered that its agents were only trying to cope with North Korean cyberwarfare by posting comments meant to counter messages that praised the North and spread groundless rumors about South Korean government policies. □

Fingerprint scanner tested on foreigners leaving Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal authorities are testing a mobile device to scan fingerprints from a sample of foreign air travelers as they depart from the United States through Atlanta's airport.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers began using the devices last week to scan some foreign passengers on selected flights at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, agency spokeswoman Jennifer Evanitsky said Tuesday. The test will be expanded in the fall to airports in Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, San Francisco and Wash-

ington. The agency, which is under a congressional mandate to record the biometrics of departing foreign visitors, plans to test the devices through next June.

Then it will decide whether it's feasible to further expand their use without disrupting travel too much, Evanitsky said.

Border officers currently collect digital fingerprints and photos from arriving foreign travelers to ensure they are who they say they are, the agency said in a news release. The new scanners have the potential to enhance existing tools and to confirm the departure of a foreign traveler using

biometric verification, the release said.

Officer will stand at the passenger loading bridge of selected flights leaving the U.S. and will use the new hand-held devices, which are a bit bigger than a smartphone, to scan the fingerprints and passports of selected foreigner travelers.

The agency said it will match that data to the data collected when the person entered the country and then it will be stored in systems managed by the Department of Homeland Security. The agency said it "remains committed to protecting the privacy of all travelers." □

JPMorgan 2Q profit rises 4% as bank trims expenses

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s second-quarter profit rose 4 percent as the bank made up for lower revenue by cutting expenses.

The largest U.S. bank by assets said Tuesday that it earned \$5.78 billion, or \$1.54 a share, in the latest quarter, up from \$5.57 billion, or \$1.46 a share, a year earlier. Net revenue

totaled \$23.81 billion, down from \$24.68 billion. Revenue at three of the four JPMorgan businesses fell or was flat. The only business where it grew was asset management.

But as revenues declined, JPMorgan was able to compensate by cutting expenses, reducing headcount, and through a \$330 million gain as its corporate tax rate fell. Barclays' analysts said the tax benefit

was the main driver behind the bank's ability to beat Wall Street expectations of \$1.43 a share.

At JPMorgan's investment bank, net income rose 10 percent as lower expenses offset revenue declines both in its trading and investment banking advisory business.

In consumer banking, net income edged up 1 percent, helped by higher sales and loan growth in its

auto and credit card division, as well as reduced expenses.

JPMorgan and other banks have been trimming their balance sheets and selling off businesses for several years. Headcount at the bank was 237,459, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Legal expenses, which had been a major issue during the past few years, also declined.

JPMorgan is one of the first

big U.S. banks to announce earnings, along with Wells Fargo, which reported results that matched analysts' estimates on Tuesday. Like JPMorgan, revenue at Wells Fargo was lower.

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said at the end of the company's earnings call that he may not participate in future calls, instead leaving the talking to Marianne Lake, the bank's chief financial officer.□

Wall Street post 4th straight day of gain; Micron soars

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks climbed broadly on Tuesday as investors who had been fretting over the Greek debt crisis and plunging Chinese stocks turned their attention back to the U.S. economy and corporate earnings reports. JPMorgan Chase and Johnson & Johnson reported second-quarter profits that were stronger than expected.

A government report showed that Americans cut back on spending at retailers last month, but some investors interpreted that as good for stocks since it may make the Federal Reserve more cautious when it starts raising rates for the first time in nine years.

"It's back to the mindset that bad news is good news," said James Abate, chief investment officer of Centre Funds.

"We think (the Fed) will raise rates in September, but we don't think it will be an aggressive tightening cycle."

The gains were modest but widespread. Among the 10 industry sectors of the Standard and Poor's 500 index,

for the broader index. The S&P 500 increased 9.35 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,108.95. The Dow Jones

to 18,053.58. The Nasdaq composite climbed 33.38 points, or 0.7 percent, to 5,104.89.



Vincent Khemlall, 7, of New York, uses a hula hoop provided by Carnival Cruise Lines outside the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Carnival, which rang the closing bell at the exchange, is the largest cruise company in the world, with a portfolio of 10 cruise brands in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

only utilities fell. It was the fourth straight gain in a row

industrial average gained 75.90 points, or 0.4 percent,

The Commerce Department said retail sales

slipped 0.3 percent in June, the weakest showing since February. That followed a robust 1 percent jump in May.

A separate report from National Federation of Independent Business showed an index of small business optimism fell in June. Investors were also keeping an eye on Greece after the country struck a preliminary deal with its creditors. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has to convince lawmakers to approve tax hikes and spending cuts by Wednesday to receive emergency money and re-open the country's banks, but he faced dissent even within his left-wing party.

Peter Cardillo, chief economist at Rockwell Global, a brokerage firm, thinks the Greek crisis may still spook the stock market.

He said investors seemed to be more focused Tuesday on earnings, and hoping some decent reports so far will continue and buck the currently low expectations investors have.□

Prominent Texas businessman Bass invests in Blue Bell

BRENHAM, Texas (AP) — An investment by a prominent Texas businessman will ensure the return of Blue Bell ice cream to the market after listeria contamination prompted a shutdown in manufacturing, the company said Tuesday.

Billionaire businessman Sid Bass, an investor and philanthropist whose father and uncle built an oil fortune, has become a part-

ner in Brenham-based Blue Bell Creameries, CEO and President Paul Kruse said in a statement.

The privately held company stopped production at its Brenham; Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and Sylacauga, Arkansas, facilities after issuing a national recall in April because of concerns about listeria. Its ice cream was linked to 10 listeria illnesses in four states, includ-

ing three deaths in Kansas. A Food and Drug Administration investigation found that Blue Bell knew that it had listeria in one of its plants for almost two years before the recall.

No date has been given for when Blue Bell products could be back in stores. Blue Bell last week announced plans to test production runs at its Alabama plant. After a trial period,

the company plans to begin building inventory to resume commercial sales.

The company did not reveal the amount of Bass' investment, but Kruse said Bass made a "significant investment" and the "additional capital will ensure the successful return of our ice cream." Blue Bell is extremely popular in its home state, and Bass and his family have deep ties to

Fort Worth. Forbes last year ranked Bass as the 324th wealthiest person in the U.S.

"Blue Bell is the quality leader in the ice cream industry," he said in the statement. "We believe quality is the principle attribute that ensures the success, growth and longevity of a business."

Bass did not return a message Tuesday seeking additional comment.□

Turning to earnings: investors hope results can lift stocks up

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After fretting over a Greek bailout, a collapse in Chinese stocks and the timing of an interest rate increase, investors are hoping U.S. corporate earnings will bring more reassuring news this month. Companies have started to report second-quarter results, and early announcements bode well for investors unnerved by worrisome headlines and a shaky U.S. stock market.

Aluminum company Alcoa, one of the first big companies to report earnings, announced last Wednesday that its earnings edged up from a year ago. A day later, PepsiCo said higher sales from Frito-Lay helped its earnings beat expectations.

"It's going to be refreshing to move away from headlines around Greece, China and Fed rate hikes and get back to the underlying fundamentals that should be driving stock prices," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors.

A lift is just what stock investors need.

Fears about Greece and China have shaken up the market this summer. The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged down 0.2 percent from April through June, the index's first losing quarter since December 2012. Last week, the index closed down as much as 4 percent from its all-time high on May 21.

For the year, things aren't so bad. But the S&P 500's 2.4 percent gain so far is small compared to the same period the prior two years. The index surged 17.8 percent through mid-July of 2013 and climbed 6.5 percent over that same stretch last year.

Results have grown every quarter since late 2009, supporting a bull market for U.S. stocks over that time.

For the second quarter, companies in the S&P 500 are expected to report that earnings fell an average of 4.5 percent, according to data provider S&P Capital IQ. Much of that decline, though, is due to lower profits at energy companies, which have been hit by a 50 percent drop in the price of oil over the past year.

Companies also have had a habit of low-balling their earnings forecasts in the past, giving them an easier hurdle to clear when they report final results. As a result, earnings often beat the predictions of Wall Street analysts. For example, early forecasts for the first quarter of this year showed that companies would report a 3.2 percent decline in earnings. Once all the numbers were tallied, earnings climbed 4.2 percent.

Outside of energy, many companies are in good health, investors say.

"To me the story is underneath the headline numbers," said Darrell Cronk, chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "You still have really good growth in a number of sectors."

Earnings are expected to grow strongly for telecommunications companies, as well as health care firms. On Tuesday, JPMorgan, the largest U.S. bank by assets, said that its second-quarter profit rose 4 percent. Profits increased as the bank continued to trim its expenses. Johnson & Johnson was another big-name company reporting earnings. The maker of Band-Aids, medical devices and drugs said restrained spending and a sizeable one-time gain helped boost its earnings more than 4 percent in its latest quarter. It also raised its profit forecast for the year despite a negative impact from the strengthening dollar.

The collapse in oil prices has hit energy companies hard. Second-quarter earnings are projected to slump 61 percent from the same period a year earlier, making it by far the worst-performing industry. □

Fake buyout story lifts Twitter stock

MARLEY JAY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter's stock briefly spiked on Tuesday after a fake story said the short messaging service received a \$31 billion buyout offer.

Although the hoax involves a knockoff news website set up by a secret owner targeting a social media company with a \$24 billion market cap, experts said the events look like a modern twist on a stock scam as old as the markets themselves.

The fake story, which cited "people with knowledge of the situation," appeared

stock closed up 2.6 percent at \$36.72.

The report may have seemed believable because of Twitter's recent struggles. The company went public in 2013, but it isn't profitable and some investors are concerned about its user growth. And of Monday's close, Twitter shares were down 31 percent since April 27.

The stock tumbled after Twitter's first-quarter report included disappointing revenue and a forecast that was lower than Wall Street expected.

CEO Dick Costolo stepped down July 1 amid criticism

fake bids for Tower Group International and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory as well as Avon.

Robert Heim, a former lawyer at the SEC, said these kinds of schemes will probably persist because news spreads so fast over social media and traders have to react so quickly.

"I think this is a modern form of the pump and dump," he said in a telephone interview. "Instead of having a room full of cold callers calling up investors and pitching a stock, now people can set up a website in a day or so, often on their own, and publish a fake



A phone post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange features a Twitter logo, in New York. Twitter's stock briefly spiked on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, after a fake story said the company received a \$31 billion buyout offer.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

on a website made to look like Bloomberg's business news page. The website was registered Friday, according to a search of the nonprofit Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and the identity of the person or company who registered it is not publicly available.

Bloomberg spokesman Ty Trippet says the story is "fake and appeared on a bogus website that was not affiliated with Bloomberg."

Twitter Inc., based in San Francisco, did not comment.

Twitter's stock spiked 8.5 percent in late morning trading before settling back down after the story was confirmed fake. The

over Twitter's disappointing financial performance and share price decline. He had been CEO for five years. Company co-founder Jack Dorsey was named interim CEO.

Earlier in the year the shares climbed on a strong fourth-quarter report.

In May, a fake bid for another company, Avon Products, sent its shares as much as 20 percent higher. That offer involved a document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Last month the SEC sued a Bulgarian man, Nedko Nedev, and said he and five others worked together to violate securities laws by creating fake takeover offers. The SEC said Nedev made

news story to be able to trade on the securities before the truth comes out."

In a pump and dump scheme, investors in a stock mislead people into buying shares with fake news or purported insider information. The share price goes up as people get interested and the schemers sell their stock at a profit. Then the shares fall and the duped investors lose money. Automated trading programs that act based on increased trading volume and prices can magnify the effect of the scams, he added. Heim said retail investors should be careful and make sure news stories are verified before they made trades based on them. □

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Spotlight shining on Pluto at cold outskirts of solar system

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — Pluto's tiny, icy world is getting major attention for its first visit by a spacecraft, NASA's New Horizons.

Tuesday's flyby — with the closest approach being the approximate distance between Seattle and Sydney, or New York and Mumbai — is expected to open up new ground on the last unexplored planetary territory of our solar system.

Here's a rundown on Pluto, a 20th-century discovery about to become the 21st-century darling of astronomers:

DISCOVERY

Pluto is the only planet (OK, now former planet) in our solar system discovered by an American. Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh spotted the dot in 1930. The name Pluto came from a British schoolgirl, Venetia Burney, then 11, based on the mythological god of the underworld.

Tombaugh died at age 90 in 1997, nine years before New Horizons took flight. A bit of his ashes is on board. Both of Tombaugh's two children, now in their 70s, were at the New Horizons mission operations center for Tuesday's celebration.

FIVE MOONS

Big moon Charon was discovered in 1978, followed by little moons Nix and Hydra in 2005, Kerberos in 2011 and Styx in 2012. The Hubble Space Telescope revealed all four baby moons. Astronomers stuck to underworld undertones when it came to the names.

New Horizons will hunt for more moons, but at this point, they would have to be pretty elusive. The Pluto empire, complete with six bodies, at least for now, is like its own mini solar system.

FORGET THE SUNGLASSES

Pluto is so far from the sun — between 2.8 billion and 4.6 billion miles — that twilight reigns. At high noon

on Pluto, it looks as though it would be dawn or dusk on Earth.

It takes 248 years for Pluto to orbit the sun. Thus, it's only made it about one-third of the way around the sun since its discovery in 1930. Every so often, Neptune's orbit exceeds Pluto's, putting Neptune slightly farther out.

FIRST A PLANET, THEN IT'S NOT

Pluto is the only planet to get kicked out of the solar system club.

Just seven months after New Horizons rocketed away from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in 2006, the International Astronomical Union declassified Pluto as the ninth planet for technical reasons. Instead, it became a dwarf planet. The decision left the solar system with eight full-fledged planets, with Mercury replacing Pluto as the smallest.

New Horizons scientists, as well as NASA's leaders, are hoping the new pictures will restore Pluto's planet status.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

Pluto is the biggest object in the icy Kuiper Belt, also known as the third zone after the inner rocky planets and outer gaseous giants.

The Kuiper Belt is full of comets and other small frosty objects. It's named after the late Dutch-



This July 13, 2015 image provided by NASA shows Pluto, seen from the New Horizons spacecraft. The United States is now the only nation to visit every single planet in the solar system..

Associated Press

American astronomer Gerard Kuiper, who proposed a bevy of small bodies beyond Neptune back in the 1950s. The New Horizons team hopes to go after a smaller Kuiper Belt object following the Pluto flyby, provided a mission extension is approved. □



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GM to keep sponsoring Kid Rock concerts, discuss flag issue

COREY WILLIAMS

DEE-ANN DURBIN

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors said Tuesday it'll continue its sponsorship of Kid Rock's summer concert tour, despite a request by a Detroit activist group that the automaker cut financial ties with the musician if he displays the Confederate flag onstage.

Members of the National Action Network and Detroit chapter president, the Rev. Charles Williams II, will meet Thursday with representatives from GM's Chevrolet brand. The two sides have been in discussions recently over Kid Rock, who has been criticized in the past for displaying the rebel battle flag during perfor-

mances.

"We need to let some open and constructive dialogue occur as a first step, and we'll go from there" GM spokesman Patrick Morrissey said.

It's not clear whether Kid Rock still displays the flag during his concerts, though Morrissey noted: "The only flag on stage during the Chevy-sponsored summer concert tour is the American flag, and to our knowledge, Kid Rock has not used the Confederate flag on stage for several years." The Associated Press left messages Tuesday seeking comment from Kid Rock, who was born Robert Ritchie and lives in suburban Detroit.

The Confederate flag

spurred protests following last month's massacre of nine black worshippers at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The white man charged in the slayings had posed with the flag in photos that were posted online before the attack that police say was motivated by racial hatred. Lawmakers in South Carolina voted to remove the flag from outside the Statehouse, and it was taken down last week.

National Action Network members protested last week outside a Detroit museum housing a Kid Rock exhibit.

Williams said the group still is awaiting a response from the musician.

"He has not displayed it in his concerts, so they have said," Williams said of GM's statement. "We're going to take the opportunity to dialogue and hopefully their minds change. The best resolution is for GM to pull their sponsorship of Kid Rock. The entire civil rights community is ready to open up a campaign on this issue if General Motors



This May 5, 2015 file photo shows musician Kid Rock performing during National Concert Day in New York. Associated Press

doesn't want to take responsibility on this bad business issue."

But Morrissey said Thursday in an email that the automaker is "committed to our sponsorship of Kid Rock's summer tour and are confident that he will provide his fans, many of whom are proud Chevrolet owners, with a spectacular concert experience that celebrates American freedom."

Kid Rock grew up in Michigan's Macomb County and is known for dabbling in a variety of musical styles, from hip-hop and hard rock to country and Southern rock. He counts

among his biggest hits, "Picture," "All Summer Long," "Bawitdaba" and "Born Free." GM has used "Born Free" to promote its Chevy brand.

His philanthropy in Detroit and surrounding areas also is well-known.

Kid Rock was honored in 2011 by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People branch in Detroit.

"I've never flown that flag with any hate in my heart," Ritchie told a crowd attending the organization's annual fundraising dinner that year. "Not one ounce." □

DiCaprio foundation grants \$15M to environmental groups



In this March 2, 2014 file photo, Leonardo DiCaprio arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When it comes to saving the planet, Leonardo DiCaprio is putting his money where his mouth is.

The actor's foundation announced Tuesday it has awarded \$15 million in grants to a host of environmental organizations, including Amazon Watch, Save the Elephants, Tree People and the World Wildlife Fund.

"The destruction of our planet continues at a pace we can no longer afford to ignore," DiCaprio said in a statement. "We have a responsibility to innovate a

future where the habitability of our planet does not come at the expense of those who inhabit it."

The groups receiving the grants are "working to solve humankind's greatest challenge," he said.

The 40-year-old actor has been an active environmentalist throughout his career. He created the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation in 1998, a year after "Titanic" came out, to fund efforts that protect the planet and its endangered species. It now supports such projects in more than 40 countries. □

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In this image released by NBC, host Jimmy Fallon appears during his monologue on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," Monday, July 13, 2015 in New York.

Associated Press

Jimmy Fallon back at 'Tonight' following gruesome injury

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Tonight" show host Jimmy Fallon spent 10 days in a hospital intensive care unit after tripping in his kitchen and injuring a finger so badly it required six hours of microsurgery to save.

The comic was back at work Monday for the first time following the June 26 accident in his New York home, wearing a cast on his left hand that extended nearly to the fingernail of his ring finger. His wedding ring caught on a surface as he tried to break his fall.

"I tripped and fell in our kitchen on a braided rug that my wife loves," he said. "I can't wait to burn it to the ground."

His badly bent finger looking like a "horror movie," Fallon took a cab to an emergency room. He was told what he thought was a broken finger was much more complicated, and was sent to another hospital. He said he was told that many people with the same injury lose their finger. The complicated surgery involved taking a vein from his foot to help repair the

finger.

Ten days in the hospital made Fallon a little stir crazy.

"I started losing it halfway through," he said. "I started reading books about the meaning of life."

He wasn't kidding, as Fallon pulled out a paperback titled "Man's Search for Meaning." And he said it crystallized his own thoughts about what he should be doing.

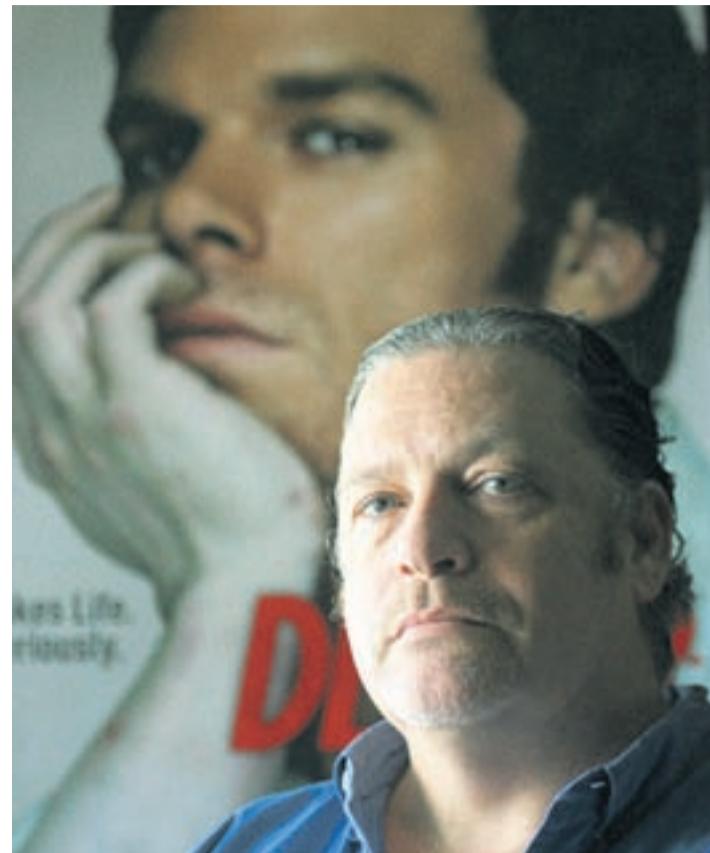
"This is the meaning of my life," the 40-year-old comic said. "I belong on TV ... if anyone's suffering at all, this is my job. I'm here to make you laugh. I'm here to make you have a good time."

It was a rough summer break for NBC's "Tonight" show crew. Fallon's announcing sidekick, Steve Higgins, said he spent much of the time in bed with Lyme Disease.

The advantage of being a comedian, Fallon said, is that he got plenty of email messages from friends that made him laugh. And it made him see the humor in his fall.

"If it was me watching me," he said, "I would laugh." □

Author Jeff Lindsay says goodbye to serial killer Dexter



In this Dec. 12, 2006 file photo, author Jeff Lindsay poses next to a poster from Showtime series "Dexter" at his home in Cape Coral, Fla.

Associated Press

DAVID FISCHER

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Spoiler alert: Book Dexter does not become a lumberjack.

The eighth and final novel in the Dexter series, "Dexter Is Dead," now in bookstores, picks up from the end of the previous book, with the titular vigilante serial killer under arrest and facing a murder charge — ironically for a crime he didn't actually commit.

"I always knew that someday the wheels would come off," author Jeff Lindsay said.

Starting with the 2004 novel "Darkly Dreaming Dexter," the series follows the exploits of Dexter Morgan, a blood splatter analyst with the Miami-Dade Police Department. Following a code developed by his adoptive father — a police officer — to only kill other killers, Dexter balances a public life of work, friends and family with his not-so-public, homicidal pastime.

But now Dexter's story is coming to a climactic conclusion. "I had all these wonderful, outrageous ideas for how it

would happen, and I didn't end up using any of them, which I guess is par for the course," Lindsay said. "Your first idea, the one that gets you going, is never the one you end up with."

It's safe to assume that none of those ideas involved Dexter faking his death and starting a new life in the Pacific Northwest as a lumberjack. That's how the "Dexter" television series based on Lindsay's characters concluded in 2013 after eight seasons.

"Boy oh boy oh boy, did I get mail about that," Lindsay said.

While the first season of the show kept relatively close to the first novel, the plotlines of later seasons had virtually nothing to do with the books. So Lindsay could only tell irate fans, "It wasn't me."

Fan reaction aside, Lindsay said he doesn't really have an opinion on the final episode because he didn't actually see it. He had just started a 10-month book tour for his previous novel, "Dexter's Final Cut," and he didn't get a chance to watch the show's finale.

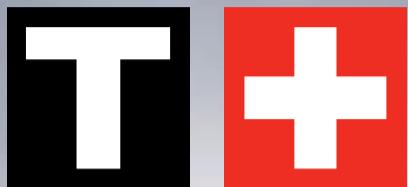
"So I don't have any opinion on whether it was good or bad except that TV is very, very different," Lindsay said. "The demands of that medium are very different from what is demanded in the book, and it's never going to be the same thing. I'm sure they (the show's producers) did what they thought was right."

Lindsay said he has mixed feelings about leaving a popular character and a successful book series behind.

"This is kind of what I had always wanted, to have a book series like that," Lindsay said. "And to say goodbye to it is like launching yourself into the unknown and starting over again. But it was time. I don't think it got stale, but I felt like someday soon it might start to get stale on me. Better to go out on top, leave them wanting more."

Lindsay said he was never bothered by the gruesome murders or the violent psychopaths he spent more than a decade writing about. He credits this to the training he received years ago while pursuing an acting career in Hollywood.

"One of the things they taught us was how to be the whacky neighbor on the hit sitcom," Lindsay said. "It's not who you are. You go home, and you take the costume off. You have dinner with the family. And the next day, you go in and put the costume on again. And that's always the way I wrote Dexter." While Lindsay's acting career never really took off, he did get to use his voice-acting skills by performing the audiobooks of the last four Dexter novels, starting with the cannibalism-themed "Dexter Is Delicious." He said his publisher initially insisted that non-fiction writers could do their own audiobooks, but it just wasn't done with fiction. "I just kept telling them, it's something I do, and I used to be good at it," Lindsay said. □



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